

TRAINING
of MERC Act 312 Arbitrators and Fact Finders
MSU College of Law - November 3, 2006

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration & Light Breakfast - Welcome
- 8:30 - 9:45 **MERC Statutes, Rules, Policies & Seminal Cases**
 Bureau of Employment Relations Staff
- 9:45 - 10:00 Break
- 10:00 - 11:45 **Act 312/Fact Finding – From Appointment to Decision**

Overview/Differences; Appointment & Agency Procedures; Conflicts of Interest; Advocacy Status; Pre-hearing Matters; Motions; Negotiable Issues; Mandatory Subjects of Bargaining; Ranking/Priority of Issues; Statutory Factors; Comparability; Economic/Non-economic Issues; Arbitrator/Fact Finder vs. MERC Authority; Pending MERC or Court Matters; Reducing the Issues/Remand to Mediation; Making the Record; Activism of Neutral; Stipulations; Evidentiary Issues; Exhibits; Transcripts; Controlling the Parties; Final Offers/Timing; Role of Panel Delegates/Executive Session; Essentials of Award or Recommendation; MERC Billing Policy; EFT Vendor Payment

Mario Chiesa and George Roumell – Arbitrators/Fact Finders
Ron Helveston and Martha Marcero – Advocates/Attorneys
Nancy Ciccone and Barbara Wise-Johnson – Labor Relations Representatives
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch - **MERC Update**
 Recent Significant Cases; Ask the Bureau Director/Bureau Staff
 Upcoming Programs – MERS Seminar; Shadowing, Breakfast Meetings
- 1:00 - 2:10 **Municipalities and Schools; Understanding a Municipal Or School District Budget/Audit**

Greg Pitoniak - Deputy Treasurer for Local Government Services, State of MI
Blake Roe - Partner, Governmental Services, Plante & Moran PLLC
- 2:10 - 2:20 Break
- 2:20 - 3:30 **Health Care Issues – Defining the Terms; Controlling the Costs; Alternative Plans; Retiree Health Care**

David Watroba –Director/ Market Relations Blue Cross & Blue Shield of MI
Michael Shoudy and Carl Ver Beek – Attorneys/Legal Advisors
- 3:30 - 4:40 **Pension/Retirement Issues; Teachers’ Pensions - What’s Left to Bargain?**

Judith Kermans – Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company
Michael Shoudy and Carl Ver Beek – Attorneys/Legal Advisors
- 4:40 Adjournment

REFRESHER
for MERC Act 312 Arbitrators and Fact Finders
MSU College of Law - November 3, 2006

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10:00 - 11:45 **Significant Act 312/Fact Finding Issues**

Distressed Municipalities; Emergency Financial Manager Legislation; School Districts & Bankruptcy; Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid; Switching Pension Systems; Health Savings Plans; Commission vs. Arbitrator Determination; Unit Determinations; Pre-hearing Motions/Activities; Developing the Record; Activism of Arbitrator or Fact Finder; Interaction with MERC Staff; Remand to Mediation; Controlling the Advocates; Limiting or Ranking the Issues; Final Offers/Timing – Making them Useful; Billing Issues; EFT Vendor Payment

*Tom Barnes, Richard Block, Ben Kerner - Arbitrators/Fact Finders
Art Przybylowicz, Craig Lange, Alison Paton - Advocates/Attorneys*

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